



THURSDAY EVENING, FEB. 22, 1900

THE INTRODUCTION into Congress of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibiting polygamy and disqualifying those who practice it from holding federal offices, is a move in the right direction, and if so worded as to include consecutive as well as simultaneous polygamy, so that it would apply to those who make divorces a means of getting rid of one husband or wife for the purpose of marrying another, it would be a still better one. The basis of our social system is the family, each man having but one wife, and now that the Mormons have voluntarily given up plural marriage to obtain admission to the Union, their contention that it is an article of their faith and the prohibition of the practice an interference with freedom of religion, has ceased to have any force. They may still believe it to be morally right, as many people believe lotteries to be, yet, as they cannot now plead that they are bound in conscience to practice it, it is clear that a prohibition of it by law would not restrict their religious rights. How it can be passed by the present Congress, however, is another matter, for while one or two of those who voted against allowing Representative Roberts to take the seat to which the people of Utah had elected him, solely because he was a polygamist, had the courage—or shall we say audacity—to stand up and confess publicly that they acted under "a higher law" than the Constitution and that he is the only authority they have for legislating at all, those who thus violated its provisions without any such honest confession, under the pressure of "public opinion" created by political preachers and fanatical women, would more stultify themselves by voting for the only just and honest way of preventing the recurrence of such a situation as that which then confronted them. We must therefore wait until we can elect a Congress which believes the Constitution to be the supreme law of the land—and whose members are conscientious enough to feel that no earthly power can absolve them from observing the oath to support it they must take to qualify themselves for membership. There can be no higher law than that which the Creator himself has given. "If any man makes a vow to the Lord, or bind himself by an oath, he shall not make his word void, but shall fulfill all he promised."

THE American, is a farcical nation, and the republican party the most farcical part of it. In the U. S. Senate today, on motion of a member of the republican majority of that body, Washington's Farewell Address was solemnly and sanctimoniously read by Mr. Foraker, of Ohio, and its chief points received the assents of the most pronounced republicans in that chamber. These points are as follows: That the General accepted the Presidency as a sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty; that the Constitution must be sacredly maintained; that the people of some States should not be misrepresented by those of others; that there should be no obstruction or opposition to the execution of the laws; that the Constitution should not be changed except by the explicit and authentic will of the whole people; that religion and morality should be cultivated; that expense should be avoided by promoting peace, and the debts of one war paid before those of another are incurred; that justice should be observed toward all nations and neither hatred nor fondness manifested toward any; that there be no political alliance or connection of any sort with any; the advantage of remaining one people, steering clear of all others, and, even in commerce, to hold an even and impartial hand to all. Not a smile wreathed the face of any republican Senator during the entire reading, though all of them knew full well, as everybody else does, that their party had flouted, and is now scorning, every one of the recommendations the "Father of his Country" made to the people, the success of whose revolution he had secured.

AT THE meeting of the committee of arrangements for the celebration of the centennial of the establishment of the seat of national government in the District of Columbia next December, held in Washington last night, among the plans recommended by the local committee, of which Mr. Wight, of the District Commission, is chairman, is the retrocession of the whole, or part, of Alexandria county and city to the District of Columbia. If all the other plans be as necessarily futile as that, the whole affair may as well be postponed, or a new local committee be appointed, as nothing is more certain than the fact that Virginia, as long as she shall remain a State, will never give her consent to the surrender of another foot of her territory to the federal government. That government has already seized one entire third of her ter-

ritory and thirteen hundred acres of Alexandria county, and she naturally imagines that all that should suffice any thing else but an insatiable monster.

THE administration makes but a poor attempt to defend its alleged ally, Great Britain, from the charge of having opened the official correspondence between the U. S. consul at Pretoria and his home government, by saying it has no official knowledge that any such thing has been done, as its attention was not directed to it by the consul. All the world, except the administration, knows that the consul's correspondence was opened; the consul says it was, and the British government does not deny it. But the administration knows nothing about it, though such an act was a direct and flagrant insult to the U. S. government—that is, if there was not a secret agreement between the two governments by which it was permitted.

IN HIS speech in the U. S. House of Representatives on the Porto Rico tariff bill last Tuesday, Mr. Hopkins of Illinois, one of the rancid South-baters on the republican side of that body, said the Southern opposition to that bill is an attempt to "resurrect the State's rights doctrine of John C. Calhoun that ought to have gone down forever in the smoke and battle of war." But the Constitution says there shall be no export tax and that duties shall be the same in all parts of the country, and the republicans themselves say that Porto Rico is now a part of this country. But the Constitution is of no more consequence to Mr. Hopkins than Washington's Farewell Address.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

Washington, February 22.

Chairman J. K. Jones called the meeting of the national democratic committee to order in the banquet room of the Raleigh Hotel today. The room was decorated with flags, cut flowers and pictures of distinguished Americans. There were two large portraits of Jackson and one each of Jefferson and Washington. Living statesmen were given no recognition. Proceeding the meeting of the committee there had been 24 hours of continuous booming by the boomers from Kansas City and Milwaukee and many of them showed the effects of the strain. So did some of the committee members. All the morning the corridors were filled by a surging crowd. The advocates of Kansas City and Milwaukee were carrying on the fight up to the last moment and many members of Congress dropped in at the hotel to witness the scrimmage. Party leaders were pleased with the high tide of interest displayed in the meeting. They looked upon it as a sign that the party was in fighting trim for the campaign. The roll call showed all States represented by members or proxies. It was decided to allow each of the cities desiring the convention 30 minutes in which to present their claims and that Kansas City might have the opening and closing speeches, the time of course not to exceed 30 minutes. J. A. Reed, of Kansas City, presented the claims of that city. He spoke, he said, for that city and the unswept democracy of Missouri. They had been victorious since 1870. Kansas City was the only large municipality in 1896 to swing closer than before to democracy. There are, he said, seven hotels of highest rank. Hotel rates would not be raised. The convention hall seats 25,000 people and was declared perfect for convention purpose. Bryan was quoted as having said the acoustic properties of the hall could not be excelled. Dwight L. Moody was also quoted as saying it was unequalled among the large halls of the world. It was offered to the committee free of charge. Kansas City, however, did not come with a poor cry. Missouri would be democratic wherever the convention might be held. There was no response when New York was reached in roll call although Chairman Jones said he had been informed by Jefferson Levy that he would present the claims of that city. Mayor Rose of Kansas City spoke for that city. He said he had the police force at his command and they would be ordered to prevent visitors from breaking into the convention because if held in Milwaukee it would help the democracy. Missouri was safe and so was Nebraska. He insisted that therefore the convention should be held on fighting ground. If the convention were held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin would be carried by the democrats in 1900 as it was in 1892. Mayor Rose, said the German, the organ of German Lutheran republicans, which held the German revolt in 1892, has for months been attacking President McKinley's policy. He urged that representative delegates to the convention should be sent to the convention to declare against expansion. Congressman Cowherd said Missouri based her claim on her record, and asked: "Is it better to reward your friends or buy your foes?" Ex-Governor Peck, of Wisconsin, urged that Milwaukee be chosen, and David Overmyer, of Kansas, advocated the selection of Kansas City. An expression of sympathy for the Boers by Mr. Overmyer was greeted with cheers and prolonged applause. Members of the committee from every part of the country joined in the demonstration. There was another great demonstration when he said Kentucky was held in the republican line by fraud corporations and assassination.

Kansas City was selected as the place for the national convention, Milwaukee receiving only nine votes.

Representative Wheeler, of Kentucky, this afternoon, introduced a resolution in the House instructing the committee on foreign affairs to investigate the charges of ex Consul Macrum that his mail had been opened, his telegrams delayed, and that the British authorities have learned the secret cipher code of the United States government.

At the Couer D'Alene investigation before the House committee on military affairs this morning it was brought out that Robertson, the prosecutor, had been retained by the miners' union to represent any of its members under arrest in connection with the Wardner affair. A charge reiterated by the witness was to the effect that Coroner Francis, of Shoshone, had illegally ordered certain arrests. Chairman Hull, on behalf of Governor Stuenberg, of Idaho, protested against these promiscuous charges against civil officers of his State without allowing them representation by counsel. Chairman Hull desired Governor Stuenberg to make his own statement, but Representative Hay, of Virginia, objected. Representative Lentz arraigned General Merriam for the conditions in Idaho. An affidavit was read stating that Albert S. Bock, a school trustee of Genoa, who had, after a good deal of trouble, procured a permit to work, had been told by an unknown person that his permit would be taken away unless he voted for George T. Edmonston for school principal. He did not vote for him, and Edmonston, who represented Governor Stuenberg, took the permit away. This was really in February. Mr. Hay objected to the admission of the affidavit. Mr. Marsh, republican, of Pennsylvania, voted for its admission, and Mr. Hay against it. It was ruled out by a vote of 7 to 5. Mr. Lentz argued that the presence of the military is responsible for these things and that it was a proper subject of investigation.

The republican conference on the finance bill have practically reached an agreement, and it will probably be shown to the democrats tomorrow, but merely as a matter of courtesy, as the majority hold that they alone are responsible for legislation. The Senate will agree to a large issue of small notes and the bond features have been changed so as to accord more with the provisions in the House bill, and the latter body is humored in having more subsidiary silver. But the Senate's gold reserve fund of \$150,000,000 is retained, the secretary being given power to sell bonds to retain it. The Senate's refunding plan remains, also the section relative to continued efforts in the interest of international bimetalism.

A western democratic member of the House says that overtures are being made by republicans to have Representative Sibley, of Pennsylvania, run for Vice-President on the ticket with Mr. McKinley, and that he believes Sibley would accept, as he takes most kindly to the proposition. The republicans have an idea that he has a strong pull with the agricultural classes, but his own opinion is that Sibley has changed his politics at the wrong time. On our side of the House he says we no longer consider him a democrat, and most of our people are so furious with him that he has been suggested repeatedly that he move his seat to the republican reservation. If we had another caucus during the session and Sibley tries to come in that will give the democrats an opportunity to invite him to walk out.

Senator Vest thinks the Senate will undoubtedly pass the ship subsidy bill at this session. The commerce committee will report it either today or tomorrow, and Messrs. Hanna, Frye and others who are behind the measure will press it. "None of the democrats on the commerce committee, of which I am a member," added Mr. Vest, "will support the bill. We shall make an earnest protest in the minority report. The republicans propose to spend \$9,000,000 a year for 30 years in this business. Once commenced the amount will be greatly increased as time rolls on. From what I can hear the bill is not likely to get through the House this session. The understanding is that the publican leaders do not intend that it shall. The action to be taken by the Senate is merely for effect—to keep the beneficiaries in line, and the failure of the House to act can be used to make the plain people believe they have nothing to fear in the way of heavy increase in taxes for the benefit of the favored classes."

Washington's birthday was generally observed by the suspension of public business. All the government departments were closed and the White House was not opened to visitors. President McKinley, Secretary of State Hay and Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock went to the National Theatre where they attended a patriotic entertainment given by the Sons of the Revolution. The Daughters of the Revolution in convention at the Grand Opera House held special exercises in honor of the first President.

In the House today Mr. Rixey introduced a bill to pay the claim of John G. Rowe, of Stafford county, Virginia, \$1,700 for damages inflicted by the federal army during the war between the States.

The Senate commerce committee this morning agreed upon the subsidy bill. Congressman Lamb of the Richmond, Va. district, has received a letter from Mr. A. J. Andrews of Richmond stating that the writer had sent copies of the bill to the President, but that they had been returned to him by the President's secretary without a word of explanation; that such a thing was not only an insult to the writer but to the State of Virginia, and that he must go to the White House and demand not only apologies but reparation. Mr. Lamb has replied to the effect that doubtless the President is very busy and that his clerk did not submit the poems to him, as his statement was not absorbed by other things. He said that when he had more leisure he would probably be glad to pursue the poems, which are certainly remarkable.

The Senate committee on claims has reported favorably, without amendment, the bill to pay the legal representatives of the late Henry B. Ebley, of Fredericksburg, Va., the amount of their claim against the government.

Col. W. H. Dick, of Ohio, had a talk with President McKinley this morning. They discussed the Porto Rico tariff bill. The President is said to have told Col. Dick to endeavor to substitute the Payne bill, which the chief executive desires to become law, but not to vote against the pending measure if he should fail to bring about the desired change. Mr. McKinley is said to believe that free trade with Porto Rico may be procured at some future time without causing the friction which would be produced by an attempt to force it now.

Chas. W. Clark, son of Senator Clark, testified in his father in the Clark bribery investigation this morning. He stated that he had never empowered Whitehead to see members of the Montana legislature for his father.

THE LEWIS TRIAL.—The prosecution at Heathsville yesterday, in the case of R. C. Lewis, charged with incendiarism, introduced two witnesses in rebuttal, who testified that Lewis had told them that he was on his oyster beds the night of the fire. One of the witnesses added that Lewis stated that he went home and awakened his wife, calling her attention to the fire. This contradicts Mrs. Lewis, who testified that her husband was not away from home that night. This closed the case, and Walter Hathaway began the argument for the prosecution. Four other attorneys are yet to speak, but it is likely the case will be submitted to the jury tonight.

A middle-aged man or woman, who registered as John and Mary Story, were found dead in a room in the Klondike Hotel, New York, this morning. Gas which escaped from a tube which had been disconnected, probably accidentally, from a small stove, caused their death.

The Virginia legislature refused to adjourn today in honor of Washington's birthday. The session is growing short and there is a rush of business.

The House decided that on account of pressure of business it would not adjourn today in honor of the birthday of George Washington.

The House declined to order the engrossment of the bill to provide a general road law for the State.

Mr. Settle succeeded in securing the passage of his bill, providing that a householder may waive exemption made in his favor by section 3652 of the code.

Mr. Embrey had placed on the calendar a bill to rearrange the judicial circuits of the State, and to require the judge of one circuit to hold court in other circuits. The bill provides that the State shall be divided into thirteen judicial circuits. The counties of Loudoun, Fauquier, Rappahannock, Fairfax, Prince William, Alexandria, Stafford, and the city of Alexandria shall constitute the Ninth circuit.

These bills were also placed on the calendar:

By Mr. Galleher: For the protection of game in the counties of Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William.

By Mr. Hume: To authorize the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Railway Company to dispose of its surplus electric power by sale, lease, or otherwise.

The House passed a bill vacating all of the members of the county and city electoral boards of the State and providing for the election of their successors by this legislature on March 5. Under present law these boards hold for four years. The object of this change is to get rid of the objectionable members of the boards without specifying any particular cases.

Today the House will consider the bill to request one of the judges of elections to mark the ballots of the illiterate voters. There will be objection raised to this measure.

The Senate committee on general laws decided last night, by a vote of 8 to 4, to report favorably with numerous amendments the bill incorporating the Virginia Telephone and Telegraph Company. The friends of the bill agreed that an amendment should be made that the company should first agree to an effort to make terms with the Richmond Council, and failing in that, the courts shall decide the restrictions and regulations under which they might enter the city. Among the amendments adopted by the committee was one striking out the "perpetual succession" clause, and another reserving to the General Assembly the right to alter, amend, or repeal the charter at any time. Still another amendment provides that, before beginning work in any of the cities or towns, the company must make an effort to agree with the corporate authorities, and, failing to agree, may petition the Circuit or Corporation Court to adjudicate the disagreement; and an appeal may be taken from the decision of the lower court to the Court of Appeals, and the decision of the latter court shall be final. The same process of litigation is required to be followed in cases of disagreement as to the "reasonableness" of any regulation which any city or town may seek to impose on the company. The company is to restore streets and alleys, which it may find necessary to tear up, and is to indemnify the cities or towns against loss from accidents, and is not exempt from any general law which may be enacted in reference to tolls and charges. Several other requirements of the original bill were modified.

The legislative committee to investigate the Confederate Home and the Confederate Home Board, after a three-hour conference yesterday afternoon, reached a satisfactory conclusion, which, in effect, commends the management, but makes the pay of the commandant a fixed salary without perquisites.

The four election bills prepared by the committee on privileges and elections were the last measures considered during the morning session, and were not disposed of until the afternoon session, and not then fully. The first bill considered was that which provides for having armed guards at precincts to preserve order.

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The House passed the Senate bill to amend an act to authorize the circuit and corporation courts of the commonwealth to render judgment against receivers and commissioners and purchasers at judicial sales and their sureties in certain cases.

Also House bills making the injury to or destruction of fences or cattle-stops along the line of railroads a misdemeanor and providing for the punishment of such offenders. Section 3652 of the Code so as to provide that a householder may waive the exemption made in his favor by said section; to provide for the submission to the people of the proposed amendments to sections 1 and 2 of Article VII of the constitution of Virginia, and to provide for the consolidation of elections; to amend the charter of the town of Manassas; to authorize and regulate the erection and maintenance of wires for telephone, telegraph, electric railways and other purposes over or across the works of any company chartered as a work of internal improvement, or over or across the wires of any telephone, telegraph, electric railway or electric company.

The House committee for courts of justice reported favorably Mr. Folger's bill making what is the principal office of a railroad company.

The House committee on general laws reported favorably a bill to incorporate the Virginia Power Company. The corporation of this company are wealthy men, who desire to develop the water power on the Potomac river at Great Falls. They propose the erection of an immense automobile plant at that point, and have already purchased large property interests with a view to establishing their plant.

THE LEGISLATURE.

THE SENATE.

As stated in the Gazette of that date the bill granting a charter to the Richmond and Washington Air Line Railway Company passed the Senate yesterday. There were only eight votes against the bill. Senator Mann, stated that he had voted for the bill in accordance with instructions from the constituents whom he represented.

The Senate then took up the companion bills and passed them, Senator McMillan stating that he was opposed to the bill prohibiting the Seaboard from making any satisfactory traffic arrangements with the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company. If the gentlemen were to be allowed to build the arrangements with other companies they might desire. He alone voted against this bill.

The bill to empower the board of sinking fund commissioners to sell the State's interest in the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad was next taken up, and passed. Ayes 30 nays 6.

The bill amending section 420 of the code relative to the use by the sinking fund commissioners of money arising from the sale of the State's stock in the road, was then taken up and passed without opposition.

Senator Eggleston called up and had passed his bill prohibiting any road now chartered, or which may be chartered, from beginning operations until the State's stock in the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad shall have been disposed of.

Senator Flood was instructed to communicate the passage of the various bills to the House.

There was an animated discussion in the Senate over the committee substitute for the bill offered by Senator Flood providing for a constitutional convention.

Senator Wickham offered an amendment providing that on the ballot, which the voters are to use in deciding the matter, shall be printed the words "For a Convention" and "Against a Convention."

Senator Flood opposed the amendment in an appeal for the overthrowing the present odious Underwood constitution. If the amendment offered by the Senator from Hanover were adopted the voters who declined to express themselves on the constitutional question would be counted as opposed to the convention.

The Wickham amendment was rejected by a tie vote.

The vote was then taken on the substitute reported by the committee and the result was ayes 19, nays 16.

Senator Wickham voted in the affirmative in order to move a reconsideration. This he did, and a tie-for-all debate ensued as to what the action of the democratic caucus meant, and it was finally agreed by consent of all to pass by Mr. Wickham's motion to reconsider until Friday.

The feature of the debate was that all the reserve imposed by the democratic caucus on this subject was apparently thrown aside and the whole matter discussed openly and freely.

The episode of the debate was the lie which passed between Senators Wickham and Lupton. In the course of his remarks opposing the Wickham amendment Mr. Lupton said that it was designed a quibble. The Senator from Hanover was instantly on his feet. With impassioned utterance Mr. Wickham declared that if Mr. Lupton made that statement in an offensive sense he lied. Mr. Morris, of Albemarle, was in the chair at the time. This incident created considerable stir among members. Mr. Lupton declared in reply to Mr. Wickham that the latter misunderstood the application of his language in that nothing offensive to the Senator from Hanover was intended thereby. Upon this explanation Mr. Wickham withdrew his remarks and the incident was closed. The latter expressed the hope that the cordial relations heretofore existing between himself and Mr. Lupton would continue.

A bill was introduced by Senator James to increase the number of contributing members to a military company in cities of more than 20,000 inhabitants having but one company.

The bill to prevent the spread of syphilis among the Pamunkey tribe of Indians was passed.

Mr. Donohoe introduced a bill to repeal section 13 of chapter 2 of the act of March 6, 1890, to provide for assessment of taxes, etc., relating to liquor licenses.

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THE DAY AT WHEELING.

Wheeling, W. Va., Feb. 22.—This is the greatest Washington's birthday in West Virginia's history. Admiral Dewey is the principal guest and thousands are here from near by towns from Pennsylvania and Ohio. While the rain has dampened the elaborate decorations, it has not dimmed the enthusiasm of the crowd. The occasion is the laying of the tablet to commemorate the site of Fort Henry and the presentation of a sword to Lieutenant John S. Doddridge, a Wheeling boy, who fought at the battle of Manila bay on the cruiser Baltimore. Admiral Dewey arrived last night on a special train. Today the exercises will consist of a monster parade after which the placing of the tablet and the sword presentation will take place.

FIFTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

Washington, Feb. 22.

SENATE.

A few minutes after the Senate was called to order Mr. Foraker commenced to read Washington's "Farewell Address." There was a large gallery attendance, the majority of the auditors being ladies, arrayed in bright beautiful colors. Many of the democratic senators were absent on account of the meeting of their national committee down town.

When Mr. Foraker concluded the reading of the address Mr. Penrose rose and said he would not move to take up the Quay case today as there was a disposition to adjourn early, but he would insist on considering it tomorrow during the morning hour after routine business.

Mr. Foraker said he would call up the Puerto Rican bill immediately after the Hawaiian bill is out of the way. He had no objection, however, to speeches being made on the Quay case while the other matter was before the Senate.

Mr. Chandler remarked that the Quay case was a privileged one and could only be set aside by a vote of the majority.

The Senate then adjourned until tomorrow.

HOUSE.

On account of the early meeting of the House, 11 o'clock, there was a very sparse attendance of members at the opening of the session.

Immediately after the reading of the journal, the consideration of the Puerto Rico tariff bill was resumed in committee of the whole.

Mr. McMillan spoke against imposing a tariff on Puerto Rico, and said: "Puerto Rico came to us as a free people of her own accord believing that she would become a part of the United States and enjoy the blessings of our constitution and of free intercourse with us. I find myself taking my stand with the minority in support of the President of the United States against that party that elected him to office."

Representative McCall, the leader of the republican opposition to the bill, took the floor against the pending measure.

Mr. Brantley dissented from the idea that Congress could not declare the policy of this government towards the Philippines because they are still in rebellion. The new commission that is going to the Philippines should go clothed with authority from Congress and with power to define the attitude of this country to those islands.

Mr. Grover followed Mr. Brantley. In reply to a question from Mr. Richardson whether the President now understood the changed conditions described and whether he had changed his views, Mr. Grover said: "The President has changed his views. He has changed the mouthpiece of the administration. But I can assure you nothing would give the President greater sorrow and regret than the defeat of this bill and turning over the House to the democratic minority."

It saved his Leg.

P. A. Danforth, of LaGrange, Ga., suffered intensely for six months with a frightful running sore on his leg, but writes that Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured it in ten days. For Ulcers, Wounds, Burns, Boils, Pains or Piles it's the best salve in the world. Cure guaranteed. Only 25c. Sold by E. S. Leadbeater & Sons, Druggists.

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Princess Cantacuzene, who was Julia Dent Grant, is seriously ill with typhoid fever in St. Petersburg.

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TO-DAY'S TELEGRAPHIC NEWS

Cronje's Desperate Stand.

Paardeburg, Feb. 21.—One of the bloodiest battles of the war is raging here. General Kelly-Kenny attacked Cronje throughout Sunday and Monday. The British charges were repulsed only to be renewed with greater vigor. The Boers are resisting fiercely. On Tuesday General Cronje asked for an armistice. Fifty guns are bombarding his position. The action began near Klip drift, which Kelly-Kenny seized. The cavalry drove in the enemy's outposts and developed the Boer position which was partly entrenched. With Kox's brigade in the center and the Highland brigade on the left, the British advanced across the level ground in the face of a deadly fire. An envoy from Cronje admits their loss is 800.

At this writing General Kelly-Kenny has been unable to dislodge the Boers from their position.

London, Feb. 22.—A special dated Paardeburg, February 22, says that Commandant Botha attempted to relieve Cronje but that his (Boer's) command after severe fighting was scattered, losing heavily.

London, Feb. 22.—The war office